



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Korean Leaders Join Councilmember Valerie Ervin and Delegate Susan Lee to Recognize the Passage of Korean American Day Legislation

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ROCKVILLE, Md., April 19, 2012—Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20, will join leaders of the Korean community and Maryland State Delegate Susan Lee to officially celebrate passage of an amendment to Montgomery's Days of Commemoration law that will now recognize Jan. 13 as Korean American Day. Councilmember Ervin was the chief sponsor of the amendment.

The event will take place in the Third Floor Council Conference Room of the Council Office Building at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville.

The Council approved the amendment on March 20. Korean American Day recognizes the significance of Jan. 13, 1903, when the first Korean immigrants arrived in the Hawaiian Islands, marking the first entry of Korean immigrants to the United States territories. The special County day also will celebrate the contributions of Korean Americans to life in Montgomery County and throughout the United States.

Councilmember Ervin was the primary sponsor of the legislation that amended the Days of Commemoration Law to include Korean American Day. "Through the passage of this legislation, the Council salutes the Korean community, said Ervin. "Korean American Day will now be recognized by County residents in perpetuity, and we can all join in the celebration."

James Suh, president of the Korean American Association of Maryland, said having Montgomery officially recognize the importance of Jan. 13 is very important to members of the County's Korean community.

"I wish to applaud the Montgomery County Council for amending its law and designating Jan. 13 as a Korean American Day," said Suh. "The day signifies the acceptance and recognition of the achievements of the Korean Americans and immigrants who worked hard to improve the quality of life in Montgomery County and the State of Maryland."

Chung Pak, a commissioner of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, said: "Korean Americans and immigrants have made significant contributions in the areas of science, technology, business, education and arts for the last 109 years and made the ultimate sacrifices in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, the Iraq War, the war in Afghanistan and the war on terror to protect and improve the lives of countless people in Montgomery County, the State of Maryland and our nation. They will be proud and grateful to Montgomery County Councilmembers, especially to Councilmember Valerie Ervin, for recognizing Korean Americans and immigrants who made a difference by designating Jan.13 as Korean American Day."

Among the dignitaries expected for Friday's event are:

- Maryland State Delegate Susan Lee
- James Suh, president of the Korean American Association of Maryland
- Yun J. Yang, president of the Korean American Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Harold Pyon, president of the Korean American Social Service Center
- Linda Han, president of Hanin Global Yundai
- James Han, president of the League of Korean Americans of Maryland
- Young Ha Kim, president of the Montgomery County Korean American Association
- Chung K. Pak, commissioner on the Maryland Higher Education Commission
- Soon Gu Yoon, Korean General Counsel
- Hee K. Park, president of the Korean American Senior Citizens
- Dr. Young Dae Cha, president of the League of Korean Americans, USA

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